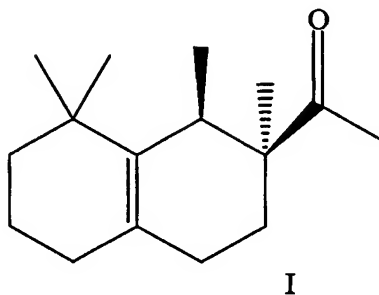


Claims:

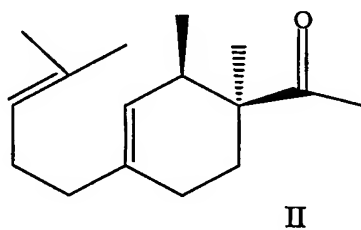
1. A process for the preparation of methylaluminium dichloride by the steps of
 - 5 (i) reacting by heating a material of the formula $R_3Al_2X_3$, where R is C₁-C₄ alkyl and X is selected from bromine and iodine with an aluminium-containing material selected from metallic aluminium and a mixture of metallic aluminium and aluminium trichloride in an atmosphere of methyl chloride, with the proviso that when R is methyl and X is iodine, the aluminium-containing material is a
10 mixture of aluminium and aluminium trichloride; and
 - (ii) when the aluminium-containing material is metallic aluminium, adding aluminium trichloride to this reaction mixture and heating,
15 to give a crude reaction product; and
 - (iii) if desired, obtaining methylaluminium dichloride from this crude reaction product.
2. A method according to claim 1, in which the material of the formula $R_3Al_2X_3$ is selected
20 from methylaluminium sesquiodide and ethylaluminium sesquibromide.
3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which the material of the formula $R_3Al_2X_3$ is a crude mixture of unreacted raw materials and product resulting from the preparation method described by Grosse and Mativy in *J.Org.Chem.* 5, 106 (1940).
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4. A method according to any one of claims 1-3, in which the metallic aluminium is particulate metallic aluminium, preferably aluminium gritty.

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5. A method of preparing a compound of the Formula I

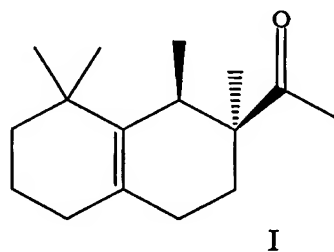


comprising the addition of a compound of Formula II



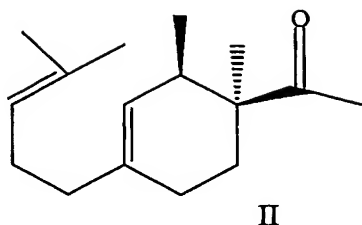
- 5 to the crude reaction product of a reaction according to Claim 1.

6. Use in the preparation of a compound of Formula I



by cyclisation of a compound of Formula II

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of a reaction mixture prepared by the steps of

- 5 (i) reacting by heating a material of the formula $R_3Al_2X_3$, where R is C_1 - C_4 alkyl and X is selected from bromine and iodine with an aluminium-containing material selected from metallic aluminium and a mixture of metallic aluminium and aluminium trichloride in an atmosphere of methyl chloride, with the proviso that when R is methyl and X is iodine, the aluminium-containing material is a mixture of aluminium and aluminium trichloride; and
- 10 (ii) when the aluminium-containing material is metallic aluminium, adding aluminium trichloride to this reaction mixture and heating.